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**Committee on Conferences**
**Substantive session of 2003**

# Draft report

**Addendum**

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## II. Calendar of conferences and meetings

### D. Requests for exceptions to section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243

**Introduction and overview**

1. At its 451st meeting, on 8 September 2003, the Committee on Conferences considered chapter II, section C, and annex III of the report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences (A/58/194), concerning requests from subsidiary bodies for exceptions to be made to section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243, in which the Assembly had decided that no subsidiary organ of the General Assembly might meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly.

**Discussion**

2. The Committee was pleased to learn that the number of requests for exceptions had declined from seven in 2002 to four in 2003. It was noted that the four bodies in question had routinely sought the same exception for the same reasons, which were not likely to change, and the view was expressed that perhaps it would be sensible to grant them a permanent or at any rate a longer-term exception. On the other hand, it was explained that the requirement that subsidiary bodies must make the request for exception on an annual basis had provided the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management with an opportunity to discuss their real conference-servicing needs during a very high-volume period, leading in some cases to a reduction in demand.

**Conclusions and recommendations**

3. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly explicitly authorize the following bodies to meet in New York during the main part of its fifty-eighth session, on the understanding that all such meetings would be allocated conference services on an as-available basis, from within existing resources, in such a way that the work of the General Assembly and its Main Committees would not be impeded:

- Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People
- Committee on Relations with the Host Country
- Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
- Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund

4. The Committee noted with satisfaction the reduction in the requests for exceptions.